## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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**ACTION IO-10** 

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 EB-07 AID-05 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 /036 W

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R 281503Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8174

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

CONFIDENTIAL LAGOS 1930

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, ECA, UN

SUBJECT: APPOINTMENT OF ECA EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

REF: STATE 043396

- 1. ADEDEJI, ON WHOM FULL BIO DATA AVAILABLE IN DEPARTMENT, HAS BEEN HIGHLY COMPETENT COMMISSIONER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND APPEARS EXCELLENT CHOICE FOR ECA EXECUTIVE SECRETARY. ADEDEJI HIMSELF EXPRESSED INTEREST IN ECA POST AT ONE TIME, BUT HIS CURRENT VIEWS NOT KNOWN.
- 2. KEY QUESTION FROM THIS VIEWPOINT IS WHETHER FMG WOULD BE WILLING RELEASE ADEDEJI TO ECA. HE WAS ONE OF SIX CIVILIAN COMMISSIONERS REAPPOINTED TO CABINET ON JANUARY 27, AND IS KNOWN TO HAVE GOWON'S PERSONAL CONFIDENCE. HE IS CURRENTLY ENGAGED IN SHEPHERDING PREPARATION FOR LAUNCHING OF THIRD DEVELOPMENT PLAN ON APRIL 1, \$45 BILLION EFFORT FOR WHICH HE WOULD HAVE MAJOR RESPONSIBILITY IN PRESENT POST.
- 3. ON OTHER SIDE OF COIN, HOWEVER, FMG WOULD PRESUMABLY WELCOME FURTHER RECOGNITION OF NIGERIA'S ROLE IN AFRICA IMPLIED IN ADEDEJI'S SELECTION TO HEAD ECA. MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT HAS ONE OF MOST CAPABLE PERMANENT SECRETARIES IN NIGERIAN CIVIL SERVICE (EBONG), MAN WHO COULD HANDLE MINISTRY ON HIS OWN AND WHO IS IN ANY EVENT NOT ON BEST TERMS WITH HIS COMMISSIONER.

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THUS, ADEDEJI COULD BE SPARED IF FMG SERIOUSLY INTERESTED
HAVING HIM TAKE ECA POST. ONCE DEVELOPMENT PLAN HAS BEEN
AUNCHED, WE BELIEVE FMG WOULD BE WILLING RELEASE HIM IN RESPONSI
O SYG REQUEST.
ROSBY

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Subject: APPOINTMENT OF ECA EXECUTIVE SECRETARY TAGS: EGEN, PGOV, PDEV, NI, ECA, UN, (ADEDEJI, ADEBAYO)
To: STATE

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